



# VEGETABLES

## ACREAGE- SPRING QUARTER (APR., MAY, JUN.)

Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
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### FLORIDA

**Weather:** Temperatures in **January** were colder than usual. During the second week of January, temperatures deviated drastically from normal with 12 to 19 degrees below average in major cities. Freeze damage occurred in most vegetable areas. Precipitation was high mid-January with the Panhandle and northern region receiving the most rain. Seventy-five percent of the subsoil moisture was adequate to surplus. Throughout January, abundant rains coupled with cold postponed vegetable harvest. Continual sub-freezing temperatures caused extensive damage to vegetable crops. Growers in south Florida reported losses to snap beans, squash, and tomatoes. Strawberry growers made efforts to minimize fruit loss through irrigation. To assist growers, a state of emergency for agricultural crops was issued the second week of January, easing restrictions on truck weights and irrigation limitations. Due to freeze damage, movement was below normal for many vegetables towards the end of January. Also during this time land preparation began for spring vegetables in the Panhandle. For **February**, nightly temperatures were lower than usual. Mid-February, temperatures were 6 to 12 degrees below normal with snow falling in parts of the Panhandle. Soil moisture ratings were continually high with 83% or more county extension agents reporting adequate to surplus soil moisture. All areas of the State received rain during the month of February. In Manatee County, producers reported flooding in vegetable beds. These producers completed tomato planting in mid-February. Planting was delayed in Walton County due to surplus rains. Spring melons were planted in the Lake Okeechobee area. Vegetable growers in the western Panhandle had problems preparing bedding and laying plastic due to cold and wet weather. Similar weather conditions caused extensive damage to snap beans. In the Hastings area, harvesting of cabbage was behind schedule and development was slow. Sub-freezing temperatures were experienced in all regions of the State. Temperatures were 9 to 13 degrees below normal for the first week of **March**. During the second week, severe storms, high winds, and heavy rains were observed in many areas. Cold weather hindered vegetable growth in many regions. Volusia County reported watermelons showing little growth for weeks. During the first week of March, production was below normal for cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, radishes, and tomatoes. Cabbage farmers were finding it difficult to meet demand for Saint Patrick's Day. Vegetable growers laid plastic and drip irrigation systems and continued spring vegetable planting. In Highlands County, growers planted cucumbers, watermelon, and snap beans. Disease was a concern for regions that received abundant amounts of rain. During the last week of March, tomatoes, watermelons, and other commercial vegetables were planted in the Panhandle.

This report reflects conditions as of April 1 and represents acreage planted for harvest during the months of April, May, June, and July. Estimated acreage by growing region is no longer available.

**Snap beans:** Land preparation for the snap bean crop began in early February. Planting proceeded on schedule in most areas by late February. Soil moisture has been mostly adequate this spring. Below normal temperatures slowed vegetable growth in some areas in early March.

**Cabbage:** Planting of spring cabbage began in mid-February and harvest is expected to begin sometime in April. In the Hastings area, harvesting of cabbage was behind schedule and development was slow. Harvest will be complete in late April.

**Cucumbers:** Movement of cucumbers in Florida since the January freeze has been near zero. Spring crop planting was underway in February but slowed due to a series of cold fronts.

**Bell Peppers:** A freeze in mid-January and extended periods of low temperatures in the central and southern Peninsulas have slowed crop progress for Bell peppers in Florida. Northern areas have had hard freezes and several late frosts. Movement has been below normal.

**Tomatoes:** Fieldwork and planting activities were delayed due to rainy conditions in central and southern growing areas. Some fields had to be replanted. Late freezes and extended cold and wet conditions have delayed field preparations and planting of the tomato crop in the Panhandle and northern counties.

**Watermelons:** Planting was delayed in the northern and Panhandle counties due to cold temperatures and extremely wet conditions. Some planted watermelon acreage was lost due to freeze damage and were replanted.

UNITED STATES

**General:** The prospective area for harvest of 11 selected fresh market vegetables during the spring quarter is forecast at 199,100 acres, up 1 percent from last year. Acreage increases for snap beans, cabbage, cauliflower, sweet corn, and cucumbers more than offset acreage declines for broccoli, carrots, bell peppers, and tomatoes. Celery and head lettuce area remains unchanged. Melon acreage for spring harvest is forecast at 74,050 acres, up 6 percent from last year. Honeydew and watermelon acreages are up 5 percent, and 14 percent, respectively, from 2009. Cantaloupe acreage is down 5 percent from last year. Asparagus area for spring harvest is forecast at 28,300 acres, down 3 percent from last year. Strawberry area for harvest is forecast at 48,300 acres, down 4 percent from a year ago .

**Snap beans:** Area for spring harvest is forecast at 22,200 acres, up 16 percent from last year. Georgia's snap beans are in fair to good condition. Soil moisture has been mostly adequate this spring .

**Cabbage:** Area for spring harvest is forecast at 7,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year. The Georgia crop is in fair to good condition .

**Cucumbers:** Spring harvested area is forecast at 10,700 acres, up 13 percent from 2009. Spring planting in Florida began in February. A series of cold fronts slowed some planting activities .

**Tomatoes:** Area for harvest is forecast at 24,800 acres, down 4 percent from 2009. In California, cool and rainy weather slowed plant growth. However, crop quality is reported to be good .

**Watermelons:** Area intended for harvest is forecast at 44,500 acres, up 14 percent from last year. In California, planting is still ongoing for the spring melon crop. Harvest is expected to begin in June.

Selected Fresh Market Vegetables and Melons: Area Harvested by Crop, State, and Total, Spring Season, 2008-2009 and Forecasted Area 2010

Selected crops and States	Usual harvest period	Spring acreage			2010 area for harvest as percent of 2009
		Harvested		For harvest 2010	
		2008	2009		
		(acres)	(acres)	(acres)	(percent)
SNAP BEANS:					
Florida .....	April-July	11,200	10700	15600	146
Georgia .....	May-June	7,800	6900	5000	72
New Jersey .....	June-August	1,500	1600	1600	100
Total .....		20,500	19200	22200	116
CABBAGE:					
Florida .....	April-June	2,990	2,760	3,000	109
Georgia .....	April-June	3,200	2,300	2,400	104
New Jersey .....	May-August	1,000	900	1,000	111
Texas .....	April-June	600	500	600	120
Total .....		7,790	6,460	7,000	107
SWEET CORN:					
Florida .....	April-July	27,300	28,000	27,600	99
California .....	April-June	11,100	11,100	13,200	119
Total .....		38,400	39,100	40,800	104
CUCUMBERS:					
Florida .....	April-June	8,300	8,200	9,200	112
South Carolina.....	May-August	1,000	1,000	1,200	120
Texas .....	April-June	400	300	300	100
Total .....		9,700	9,500	10,700	113
BELL PEPPERS: <sup>1</sup>					
Florida .....	April-July	7,700	7,800	7,600	97
TOMATOES:					
Florida .....	April-July	15,000	16,800	15,800	94
California .....	April-June	7,000	7,000	7,200	103
South Carolina.....	May-August	2,500	1,900	1,800	95
Total .....		24,500	25,700	24,800	97
WATERMELONS					
Florida .....	April-June	26,100	25,800	27,800	108
Texas .....	April-June	9,400	10,000	12,700	127
California .....	April-June	2,300	3,300	4,000	121
Total .....		37,800	39,100	44,500	114
TOTAL OF CROPS LISTED					
Florida .....		98,590	100,060	106,600	107
United States .....		146,390	146,860	157,600	107

<sup>1</sup> Includes fresh market and processing.